

Article courtesy of Dr. Betsy Ellis, who comments: An unanticipated event of the recession.

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By Jean Ortiz

PAID STUDIES DRAW MORE INTEREST IN SOUR ECONOMY

Associated Press Writer / January 5, 2009

OMAHA, Neb.—When Ricardo Vega lost his job at a call center this fall, his focus remained on keeping himself, his wife and 3-year-old daughter afloat.

"I was trying to find anything I could just to get an income source," the Omaha man said.

For Vega, 25, that meant taking a job that doesn't rely on his work experience or skills, but rather his good health and availability.

Vega is among a growing group applying and -- in some cases competing -- for spots in clinical research trials that pay participants sometimes upward of thousands of dollars in exchange for a few weekends or more committed to testing new drugs.

At a time when unemployment levels nationwide have reached a 15-year high, research centers and those familiar with the industry say interest is up among those wanting to participate in studies testing everything from pain medication to cancer drugs.

Officials at Omaha-based Qualia Clinical Services say their database of potential participants has nearly doubled from 9,000 a year ago to about 16,000 today.

The complete article can be found at:

http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2009/01/05/paid_studies_draw_more_interest_in_sour_economy?s_campaign=8315